

**VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 12-242A****ISSUED: 01 December 2016****Subject** Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, 1926.55; Amendments

**Purpose** **CHANGE I:** This directive transmits to field personnel two amendments to the above-referenced standard. The first amendment resulted from the final regulation concerning the Occupational Exposure to 1,3-Butadiene, § 1910.1051 (61 FR 56746, 4 November 1997). The second amendment resulted from the final regulation concerning the Occupational Exposure to Methylene Chloride, § 1910.1052 (62 FR 1494, 10 January 1997). **CHANGE II** transmits amendments which resulted from the adoption of the final rule for the Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (81 FR 16285 (25 March 2016).

*This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.*

**Scope** This Directive applies VOSH-wide.

**Reference** **CHANGE I:** 61 FR 56746 (4 November 1997) and 62 FR 1494 (10 January 1997)  
**CHANGE II:** 81 FR 16285 (25 March 2016)

**Cancellation** VOSH PD 12-242 (06/06/97)**Effective Date** 01 December 2016**Expiration Date** Not Applicable**Action** Directors and Managers shall ensure that field personnel understand the standard in this Directive.

**C. Ray Davenport**  
Commissioner

Distribution:	Commissioner of Labor and Industry	Director of Cooperative Programs
	Assistant Commissioner	VOSH Compliance & Cooperative Programs Staffs
	VOSH Directors and Managers	OSHA Region III & OSHA Norfolk Area Offices
	VOSH Legal Support & IMIS Staffs	

## I. Background

**CHANGE I:** The basis for the first amendment to Appendix A of Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, §1926.55, was the promulgation of federal OSHA's new final rule for the Occupational Exposure to 1,3-Butadiene (BD), General Industry, § 1910.1051, which was published on November 4, 1996. This standard reduced the permissible exposure limit (PEL) from concentrations up to 1,000 parts 1,3-Butadiene per million parts of air (1,000) as an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) to an 8-hour TWA of 1 ppm and a short term exposure limit (STEL) of 5 ppm for 15 minutes.

The second amendment to Appendix A of § 1926.55 was a result of the promulgation of federal OSHA's final rule for the Occupational Exposure to Methylene Chloride (MC), § 1910.1052, which was published on January 10, 1997. This final rule reduced the existing eight-hour TWA PEL from 500 parts MC per million parts (ppm) and reduced the existing short-term exposure limit from 2,000 ppm (measured over 5 minutes in any 2 hour period) to 125 ppm, measured as a 15-minute TWA.

**CHANGE II:** On March 26, 2016, federal OSHA published its new final rule on the Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (81 FR 16285) which also impacted §1926.55.

## II. Summary

**CHANGE I:** In the first amendment, Appendix A of § 1926.55 was revised to reflect changes resulting from the final rule for the Occupational Exposure to 1,3-Butadiene (BD), § 1910.1051. Changes to Appendix A of §1926.55 included the following: the entry in Appendix A to §1926.55 for "Butadiene (1,3-Butadiene)" was amended to remove the "1000" and "2200" from the columns entitled ppma and mg/m<sup>3b</sup> respectively; added "1 ppm/5ppm STEL" in the ppm<sup>a</sup> column; and added the following to the butadiene entry: ": See 29 CFR 1910.1051; 29 CFR 1910.19(l)" so that the entry reads as follows: "Butadiene (1,3-Butadiene); See 29 CFR 1910.1051; 29 CFR 1910.19(1)."

In the second amendment, the entire entry for Methylene Chloride was removed and replaced with the following entry in the substance column: "Methylene chloride: see § 1910.1052."

**CHANGE II:** Federal OSHA published its final rule for Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (81 FR 16285, March 25, 2016). In addition to promulgating the new standard, OSHA amended §1926.55, Appendix A, "1970 American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists' Threshold Limit Values of Airborne Contaminants" by revising the entries for crystalline silica to cross-reference §1926.1153. Footnotes were added to make clear that preceding PELs apply to any sectors or operations where the new PEL of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is not in effect. These preceding PELs are also applicable during the time between publication of the silica rule and the dates established for compliance with the rule, as well as in the event of regulatory delay, a stay, or partial or full invalidation by the Court.

To access these amendments which appear in the Final Rule for the Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica, Parts 1910, 1915, and 1926; Final Rule; and Other Related Standards, please click on the link below:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-25/pdf/2016-04800.pdf>

**GASES, VAPORS, FUMES, DUSTS, AND MISTS, § 1926.55; AMENDMENTS**

As Adopted by the  
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date: April 7, 1997



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: July 15, 1997

16 VAC 25-175-1926.55, Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55

When the regulations, as set forth in the Amendments to Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

29 CFR

Assistant Secretary

Agency

**Federal Effective Dates**

*February 3, 1997*

*April 10, 1997*

VOSH Equivalent

VOSH Standard

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Department

**VOSH Effective Dates**

*July 15, 1997*

*July 15, 1997*

**GASES, VAPORS, FUMES, DUSTS, AND MISTS, § 1926.55; Amendments**

As Adopted by the  
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date: September 13, 2016



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: 01 December 2016

16VAC25-175-1926.55, Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55

When the regulations, as set forth in the Amendment to the standard for Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

29 CFR

Assistant Secretary

Agency

**Federal Effective Dates**

*June 23, 2016*

VOSH Equivalent

VOSH Standard

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Department

**VOSH Effective Dates**

*December 1, 2016*

**PART 1926—SAFETY AND HEALTH  
REGULATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**Subpart D—Occupational Health and  
Environmental Controls**

- 9. In § 1926.55, amend appendix A:
- a. By revising the entries for “Silica, crystalline cristobalite, respirable dust”,

“Silica, crystalline quartz, respirable dust”, “Silica, crystalline tripoli (as quartz), respirable dust”, and “Silica, crystalline tridymite, respirable dust”;

- b. Under the “MINERAL DUSTS” heading of the table, by revising the entry for “Silica: Crystalline Quartz” in column 1;

- c. Adding footnote 5; and

- d. Adding footnote p.

The revisions and additions read as follows:

**§ 1926.55 Gases, vapors, fumes, dusts, and mists.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Appendix A to § 1926.55—1970  
American Conference of Governmental  
Industrial Hygienists’ Threshold Limit  
Values of Airborne Contaminants**

**THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUES OF AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION**

Substance	CAS No. <sup>d</sup>	ppm <sup>a</sup> *	mg/m <sup>3</sup> b *	Skin designation
* * *	* * *	* * *	* * *	* * *
Silica, crystalline, respirable dust				

## THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUES OF AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION—Continued

Substance	CAS No. <sup>d</sup>	ppm <sup>a *</sup>	mg/m <sup>3 b *</sup>	Skin designation
Cristobalite; see 1926.1153 .....	14464-46-1 .....	.....	.....	.....
Quartz; see 1926.1153 <sup>5</sup> .....	14808-60-7 .....	.....	.....	.....
Tripoli (as quartz); see 1926.1153 <sup>5</sup> .....	1317-95-9 .....	.....	.....	.....
Trydimite; see 1926.1153 .....	15468-32-3 .....	.....	.....	.....
* .....	* .....	* .....	* .....	* .....

## MINERAL DUSTS

SILICA:	
Crystalline .....	250 <sup>(k)</sup>
Quartz. Threshold Limit calculated from the formula <sup>(p)</sup> .....	% SiO <sub>2</sub> +5
* .....	* .....

## Footnotes.

<sup>5</sup> See Mineral Dusts table for the exposure limit for any operations or sectors where the exposure limit in § 1926.1153 is stayed or is otherwise not in effect.

<sup>a</sup> Parts of vapor or gas per million parts of contaminated air by volume at 25 °C and 760 torr.

<sup>b</sup> Milligrams of substance per cubic meter of air. When entry is in this column only, the value is exact; when listed with a ppm entry, it is approximate.

<sup>d</sup> The CAS number is for information only. Enforcement is based on the substance name. For an entry covering more than one metal compound, measured as the metal, the CAS number for the metal is given—not CAS numbers for the individual compounds.

<sup>p</sup> This standard applies to any operations or sectors for which the respirable crystalline silica standard, 1926.1153, is stayed or otherwise is not in effect.